Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. to 43. (canceled)

44. A monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof that specifically binds the capsular polysaccharide glucuronoxylomannan (GXM) of *Cryptococcus neoformans*, wherein said antibody or portion comprises:
(a) a heavy chain amino acid sequence utilizing a human VH 3-64 gene or a human VH-6-1 gene;
(b) a light chain amino acid sequence utilizing a human Vκ A27 gene; or
(c) both (a) and (b).

45. The antibody according to claim 44, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:
(a) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 43;
(b) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 47;
(c) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 51;
(d) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1;
(e) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 5
(f) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:9;
(g) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (a) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (d);

(h) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (b) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (e); and

(i) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (c) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (f),

or an antigen-binding portion of said antibody.

46. The monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion according to claim 44, wherein wherein said antibody or portion comprises amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43;

(b) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47;

(c) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51;

(d) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(e) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5;

(f) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9;

(g) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(h) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5; and

(i) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9.

47. The monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion according to claim 44, wherein said antibody or portion comprises amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5; and

(c) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9

48. A nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or antigen-binding portion according to any one of claims 44-47.

49. A cell line selected from the group consisting of G14F7E5 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5170), G15B4G5 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5171) or G19B9G7 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5172).

50. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 49, operably linked to an expression control sequence.

51. A host cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule according to any of claims 49 or 50.

52. A method for producing an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds *C. neoformans* GXM, comprising the step of culturing a host cell according to claim 51.

53. A composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 44-47, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

54. The composition according to claim 53, further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of:
(a) a diagnostic agent; and
(b) a therapeutic agent.

55. A kit comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 44-47.

56. A method for preventing or reducing the severity of conditions or disorders caused by *C. neoformans* infection in a subject in need thereof comprising the step of administering an effective amount of the

antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1-4 or a composition according to any one of claims 53 or 54.

57. A method for increasing the resistance of a subject in need thereof to infection by *C. neoformans* or to conditions or disorders caused by such infection, comprising the step of administering the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to according to any one of claims 1-4 or a composition according to any one of claims 53 or 54.

58. The method according to claim 56 or 57, wherein the subject is:
(a) immunocompromised;
(b) infected with HIV-1; or
(c) lacks one or more human $V_H 3$ family genes.

59. The method according to any one of claims 56-57, wherein the anti-*C. neoformans* GXM antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in conjunction with the administration of another therapeutic agent.

60. A method for detecting *C. neoformans* infection comprising contacting a sample from a subject suspected of being infected with an antibody or antigen-binding fragment according to any one of claims 44-47 and detecting the binding of said antibody or fragment to *C. neoformans* GXM.

61. The antibody or antigen-binding portion according to any one of claims 44-47 which is derived from a non-human transgenic animal.

62. The antibody or antigen-binding portion according to claim 61, wherein the non-human transgenic animal is a XenoMouse® animal.